



Maryland Weekly Influenza Surveillance Activity Report

A summary of influenza surveillance indicators reported to DHMH for the week ending April 5, 2014

Prepared by the Office of Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Outbreak Response
Infectious Disease Bureau – Prevention and Health Promotion Administration
Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

The data presented in this document are provisional and subject to change as additional reports come in.

SUMMARY

During the week ending April 5, 2014, influenza-like illness (ILI) intensity in Maryland was **MINIMAL** and there was **LOCAL** geographic spread. The proportion of outpatient visits for ILI reported by our Sentinel Providers increased, while outpatient visits for ILI in Maryland Emergency Departments slightly decreased. Our Sentinel Labs tested fewer specimens for influenza, but the proportion of specimens testing positive remained high and comparable to last week. The State Lab saw a substantial decrease in the number of specimens that tested positive for influenza. Nineteen influenza-associated hospitalizations were reported. Nationally, while indicators continue to decline, some regions are seeing increases in activity due to influenza type B.

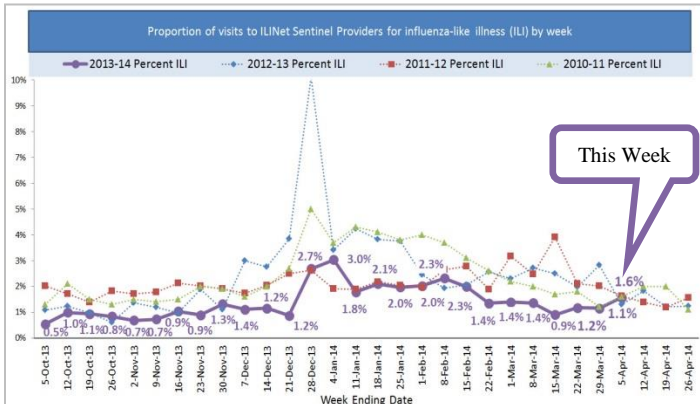
[Click here to visit our influenza surveillance web page](#)

ILI Intensity Levels
✓ Minimal
Low
Moderate
High

Influenza Geographic Spread
No Activity
Sporadic
✓ Local
Regional
Widespread

ILINet Sentinel Providers

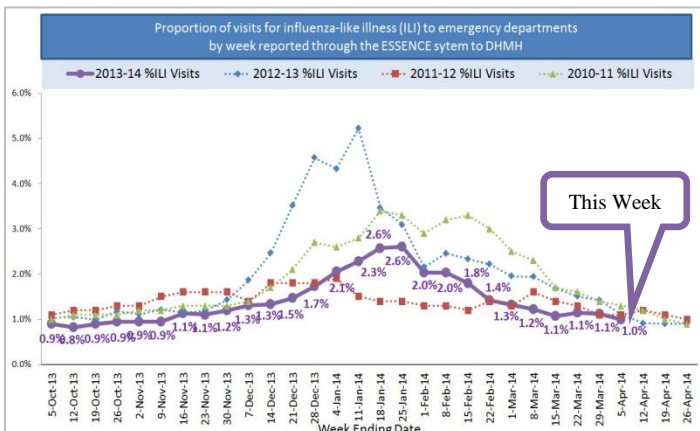
Fourteen sentinel providers reported a total of 8,291 visits this week. Of those, 130 (1.6%) were visits for ILI. This is **below** the Maryland baseline of **2.0%**.



ILI Visits To Sentinel Providers By Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	20 (15%)	14 (13%)	903 (24%)
Age 5-24	48 (37%)	49 (47%)	1450 (39%)
Age 25-49	39 (30%)	29 (28%)	983 (27%)
Age 50-64	18 (14%)	11 (11%)	287 (8%)
Age ≥ 65	5 (4%)	1 (1%)	79 (2%)
Total ILI Visits	130 (100%)	104 (100%)	3702 (100%)

Visits to Emergency Departments for ILI

Emergency Departments in Maryland reported a total of 43,515 visits this week through the [ESSENCE surveillance system](#). Of those, 434 (1.0%) were visits for ILI.



ILI Visits To Emergency Departments By Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	93 (21%)	114 (23%)	4112 (25%)
Age 5-24	133 (31%)	159 (33%)	4361 (26%)
Age 25-49	120 (28%)	131 (27%)	5434 (33%)
Age 50-64	64 (15%)	59 (12%)	1874 (11%)
Age ≥ 65	21 (5%)	25 (5%)	737 (4%)
Unknown	3 (1%)	1 (<1%)	35 (<1%)
Total ILI Visits	434 (100%)	489 (100%)	16553 (100%)

Other states' influenza information:

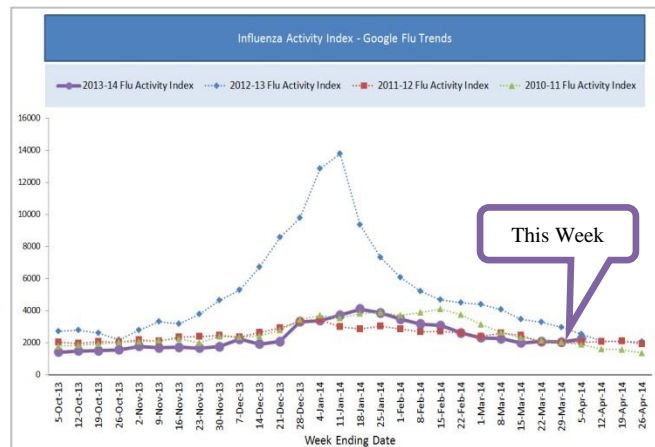
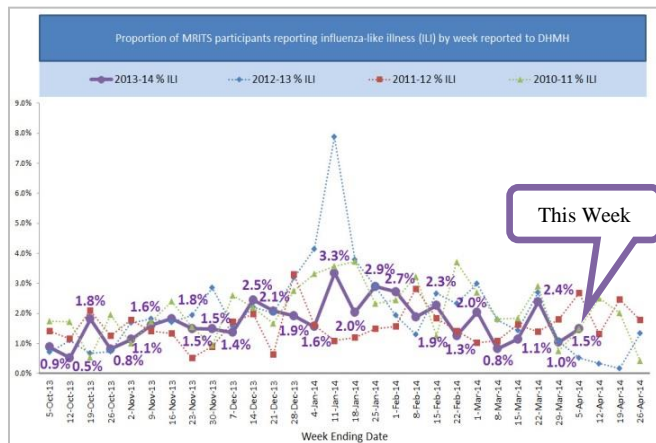
Delaware <http://dhss.delaware.gov/dph/epi/influenzahome.html>
District of Columbia <http://doh.dc.gov/service/influenza>
Pennsylvania [http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/influenza_\(flu\)/14161](http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/influenza_(flu)/14161)
Virginia <http://www.vdh.state.va.us/Epidemiology/Surveillance/Influenza/>
West Virginia <http://dhhr.wv.gov/oeps/disease/flu/Pages/fluSurveillance.aspx>

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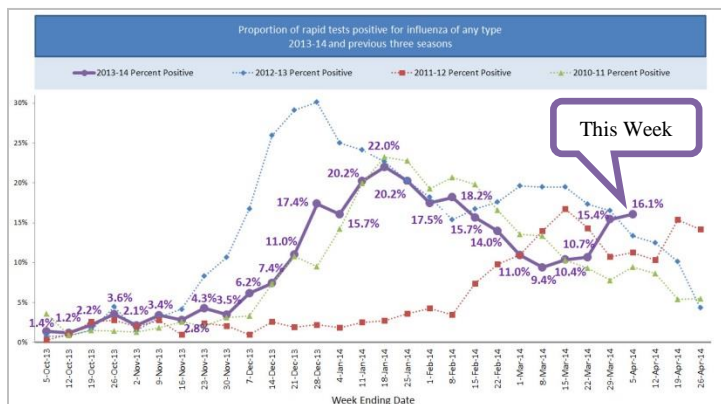
Community-based Influenza Surveillance (MRITS and Google Flu Trends)

MRITS is the Maryland Resident Influenza Tracking System, a weekly survey for influenza-like illness (ILI). A total of 605 residents responded to the [MRITS survey](#) this week. Of those, 9 (1.5%) reported having ILI and missing a cumulative 17 days of regular daily activities. According to [Google Flu Trends](#), influenza activity is "Low" in Maryland.

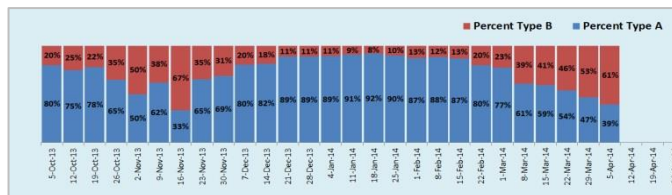


Clinical Laboratory Influenza Testing

Twenty-nine clinical laboratories reported performing 934 influenza diagnostic tests, mostly rapid influenza diagnostic tests (RIDTs). Of those, 150 (16.1%) were positive for influenza. Of those testing positive, 59 (39.3%) were influenza Type A and 91 (60.7%) were influenza Type B. The [reliability of RIDTs](#) depends largely on the conditions under which they are used. False-positive (and true-negative) results are more likely to occur when the disease prevalence in the community is low, which is generally at the beginning and end of the influenza season and during the summer.

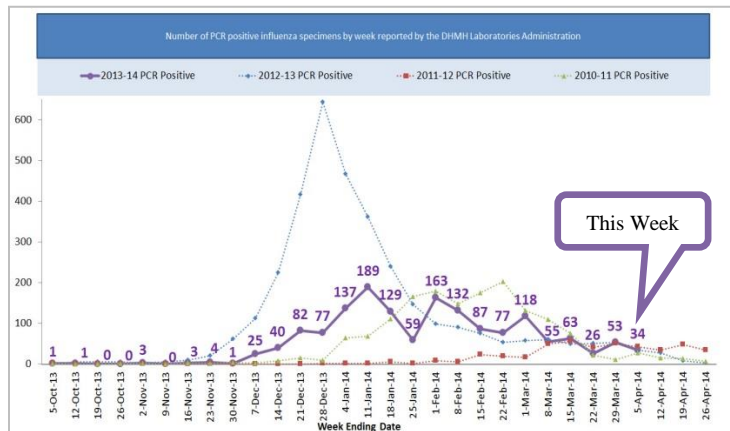


Positive Rapid Flu Tests by Type	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Type A	59 (39%)	99 (47%)	6618 (83%)
Type B	91 (61%)	112 (53%)	1386 (17%)
Total	150 (100%)	211 (100%)	8004 (100%)



State Laboratories Administration Influenza Testing

The DHMH Laboratories Administration performed a total of 108 PCR tests for influenza and 34 (31.5%) specimens tested positive. Of those, 8 (23.5%) were Type A (H1N1), 4 (11.8%) were type A (H3N2), and 22 (64.7%) were Type B. PCR testing is more reliable than RIDT. The DHMH testing identifies subtypes of influenza A, information that is not available from the RIDT results. The table below summarizes results by type and subtype.



Positive PCR Tests by Type (Subtype)	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Type A (H1)	8 (24%)	26 (48%)	1407 (90%)
Type A (H3)	4 (12%)	12 (22%)	80 (5%)
Type A (H3N2v)	--	--	--
Type B	22 (65%)	16 (30%)	73 (5%)
Total	34 (100%)	54 (100%)	1560 (100%)

Where to get an influenza vaccination

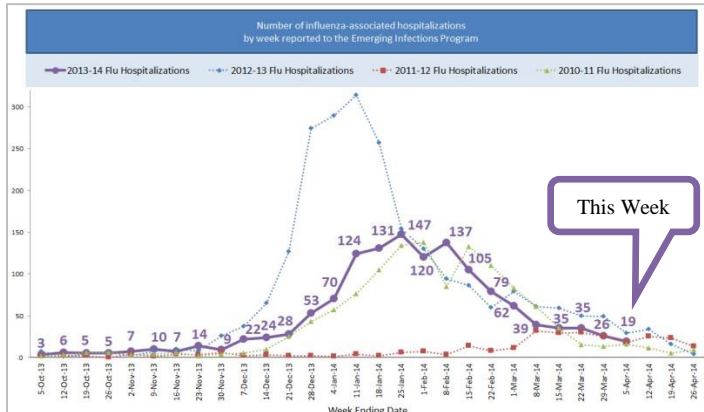
Interested in getting a flu vaccine for the 2013-14 influenza season? Go to <http://dhmh.maryland.gov/flum/d/SitePages/getvaccinated.aspx> and click on your county/city of residence. You will be redirected to your local health department website for local information on where to get your flu vaccine.

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Influenza-associated Hospitalizations

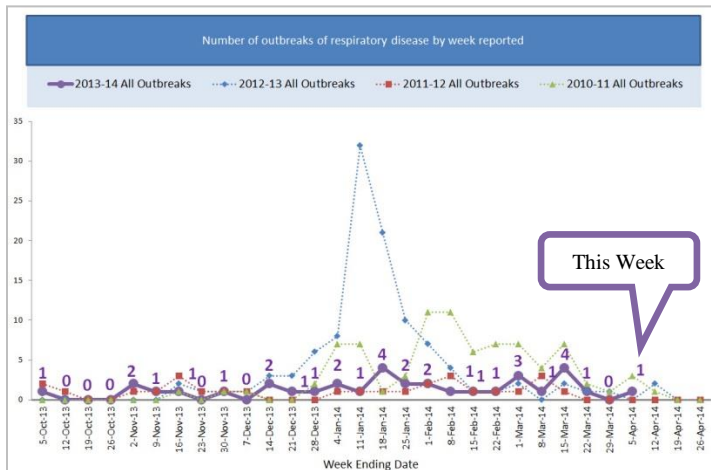
This week, hospitals in Maryland reported nineteen influenza-associated hospitalizations. (A person with an overnight hospital stay along with a positive influenza test of any kind, e.g. RIDT or PCR, is considered an “influenza-associated hospitalization” for purposes of influenza surveillance.)



Influenza-Associated Hospitalizations by Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	0 (0%)	1 (4%)	124 (9%)
Age 5-17	0 (0%)	2 (8%)	56 (4%)
Age 18-24	1 (5%)	0 (0%)	45 (3%)
Age 25-49	6 (32%)	5 (19%)	343 (26%)
Age 50-64	6 (32%)	7 (27%)	401 (30%)
Age ≥ 65	6 (32%)	11 (42%)	353 (27%)
Total	19 (100%)	26 (100%)	1322 (100%)

Outbreaks of Respiratory Disease

There was one outbreak of influenza reported to DHMH this week. (Disease outbreaks of any kind are reportable in Maryland. Respiratory outbreaks may be reclassified once a causative agent is detected, e.g. from ILI to influenza.)



Respiratory Outbreaks by Type	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Influenza	1 (100%)	--	19 (56%)
Influenza-like Illness	--	--	8 (24%)
Pneumonia	--	--	7 (21%)
Other Respiratory	--	--	--
Total	1 (100%)	--	34 (100%)

National Influenza Surveillance (CDC)

- Viral Surveillance:** Of 5,127 specimens tested and reported during week 14 by U.S. World Health Organization (WHO) and National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System (NREVSS) collaborating laboratories, 685 (13.4%) were positive for influenza.
- Pneumonia and Influenza Mortality:** The proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) was below the epidemic threshold.
- Influenza-Associated Pediatric Deaths:** Three influenza-associated pediatric deaths were reported.
- Influenza-associated Hospitalizations:** A season-cumulative rate of 32.4 laboratory-confirmed influenza-associated hospitalizations per 100,000 population was reported.
- Outpatient Illness Surveillance:** The proportion of outpatient visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) was 1.6%, which is below the national baseline of 2.0%. Two of 10 regions reported ILI at or above region-specific baseline levels. New York City experienced high ILI activity; one state experienced moderate ILI activity; five states experienced low ILI activity; 43 states experienced minimal ILI activity, and the District of Columbia and one state had insufficient data.
- Geographic Spread of Influenza:** The geographic spread of influenza in five states was reported as widespread; Guam and four states reported regional influenza activity; the District of Columbia and 15 states reported local influenza activity; Puerto Rico and 25 states reported sporadic influenza activity; the U.S. Virgin Islands and one state reported no influenza activity.

